THE

BI MONTHLY

No. 6

(FRONT COVER)

DECEMBER 1984

50p

BiMONTHLY 2

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A LESSON
IN
THE ART
OF
ANARCHY

"I've always seen LBG as a sort of Animal Farm, someone should spray "but some are more equal than others" on the wall of the Star Bar, and a certain person's face should be constantly displayed on all the monitors situated round Heaven."

All seeing, all hearing.

This issue of the magazine is an object lesson in the use of NEWSPEAK. Read on, find out what happens when control is left in our hands.

What is propaganda?
The suppression of incredulity.

Individual articles in the BiMONTHLY do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the collective.

Please send your letters, controversial ideas, and contentious contributions to:

BM/BI London WC1N 3XX.

to arrive by 25 January 1985 (allow 3 days for post)

WINDS OF CHANGE?

Gay publications provide an uninterrupted record of the negative ways in which gays are portrayed in the media and dominant social attitudes - always no commitment to any relationship, neurotic, unstable, promiscuous etc.. No surprise therefore that gays stand little chance of obtaining custody of their children, if the other parent is 'straight'.

What a relief then, to view two cases on the box in which the gay (or bisexual?) parents were the positive, loving, stable, sincere, principled characters.

'Dynasty' is the struggle between good and evil, acted out in a patriarchal family - the woman who tries to usurp power is the evil one; the good women are the comforting wives and mothers, yes we still have a long way to go. There are two sons, one the goodie the other a nasty piece of work - mother's fault of course. The goodie is not into ego tripping or hungry for power - we all love him. One of the sons is now presented as gay and big daddy is so disgusted, he precipitates his son into court for custody of the grandson.

Big daddy stands alone - everyone else supports the gay father, the goodies, mediocres and baddies. The mother of the child gave him up many episodes ago to purse her career. The child is now living with his gay father and his gay friend or lover, also his lawyer. Both men are socially competant with the greatest integrity.

The patriarchal father/husband/tycoon who is always trying to be so nice and fair to all he meets, finds the court proceedings unexpectedly warping. He ploughs on unsupported by those he claims to love. We begin to see a shift of attitude though never admitted. Will he change his mind and accept his son as he is - unconditionally? Like 'Jody' in 'Soap' he refuses to be expedient by colluding with the biases in the court process. When quizzed/harassed about his gayness he burts forth condemning the attempt to portray gayness as criminal or immoral. He refuses to apologise for failing to submit to emotional violence and compromises of principle.

The judge is rattled by this and stops the hearing abruptly to go off and appoint a winner of this farce. We are left thinking the patriarch will get custody, even though he has mellowed to the point of admitting it will be a "hollow victory" if he wins;

Whilst this was being screened, we also had 'A Question Of Love' - 9.10.84 This time two gay women with much love for each other and their children from former marriages. One woman is taken to court when her ex-husband discovers the true nature of her relationship with 'Barbara'. The child involved is about 7 years of age and makes it very clear that he wants to stay in the loving home he has - even though a solicitor is appointed to act for the child, neither he nor a social worker bothers to find this out.

In this film we see the violence of attitudes and prejudice of "God-fearing" individuals, families and society. Barbara is a "saved" Christian who is determined to live a loving and principled existence in this world. She has wisdom, courage and confidence in the court room. This uneases the 'counsel for the offence' - a would be patriarchal "God Fearing" figure of large intimidating build, the sort who think they discovered America, would blow your brains out for failing to conform to the ways of the "Free World" and adheres to the prescrptions of the Moral Majority - probably whilst raping the women they choose.

Two lawyers, male and female partners represent the mother and we see them as the type who struggle for truth and justice. They do their best to expose distortion and prejudice but largely in vain. They attempt to stop questions about gayness which are designed to disgust the jutp and jury. Heterosexuals don't have to explain why they are that way, how they do it, how often, which clubs they go to; how they date etc.. Gays shouldn't have to. The lawyer for the child punctuates the proceedings a few times but always stops too short to be of real value.

The jury decides to award custody to the father by ten votes to two. Throughout he seems an enigmatic character - there is no evidence of parenting abilities but he does have conformity and the power invested in him by society for having been born with a penis. With this comes financial and other advantages - he buys the other son a car to buy him from his mother. He is too old for the court to be deciding where he will live but that he has moved to father is supposed to be the sign that his brother should do so. This older son seems to be unsure of himself and his ideas. He does seem to be testing his powers to move from being a child to a man. Viewers are meant to see this but judge and jury do not and as I've already said, they do not ask what little brother feels and desires - something which should not happen in this country. I couldn't grasp why a jury was involved to decide custody - 'Dynasty' is also USA based and that was a private hearing like it would be here.

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We are left thinking an appeal will bring justice but in the present climate, there is no reason to believe that blind prejudice and authoritarianism of this sort which is institutionalized, will be touched. We can safely assume an appeal would reinforce it. I hope I'm wrong - the fact that the media have decided that we can see two cases like this must signal significant change but how far does it reach?

The inappropriateness of the way courts handle interpersonal/custody matters is highlighted - bad enough for heterosexuals - and we have a good insight into the aweful oppression inflicted by the courts on gay and bisxual parents. It is unusual to have viewers identifying with such oppressed groups. ↗

Viewers are lef in no doubt on the irrelevance of sexu orientation but the great relevance of integrity, stability, parenting skills and so on. However, in neither case were we allowed to see the couples being affectionate towards each other - no reassuring cuddles or touching for the men and none for the women beyond that which we can see every day on our streets

We need more programmes like this to get a fuller picture of the differences between us. The struggles of parents with disabilities .... There is a long way to go but we are on the way.

Dear Pec

mic

LETTERS

BM/BI LONDON WC1N 3XX.

Dear Sisters,

I am a bisexual woman, could you please forward one copy of your latest newsletter on bisexuality. Thanking you for your attention. Could you please advise me on how to set up, or begin a female bi-sexual help and support group here in the N/E, or is there a group already needing support or help.
The reason for asking is, of course, that it is very difficult to make any contacts.

In trust and friendship, A.D. Northumberland.

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We suggest you advertise in Spare Rib which can be obtained by post from SPARE RIB, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1, if you have any trouble getting it locally. You could also give your address or 'phone number to your nearest Gay Switchboard as a contact, and give us permish. to pass on that information to other women who write from your area- meanwhile we will be pleased to forward any letters sent to us in a plain, sealed, stamped envelope marked "A.D. Northumberland".

NEWCASTLE LESBIAN LINE 0632 612277

Dear People,

decided to drop you a line to let you know how much I enjoyed reading your newsletter (nos 1&2). They were most reassuring. The newsletter was actually advertised in a local newspaper. I'd been waiting for something like this, although I was dissapointed to learn that the latest publication was somewhat out of date (March). I think I expected a list of contacts in my own area, but I realized that you're only getting on your feet anyway, good luck with it, I shall continue to buy it when ever I can, as I don't know when your next issue will be on sale. (The assistants weren't too helpful at 'The Corner Bookshop, Leeds')

I'll try to tell you a bit about myself;

I was raised in a convent in Ireland, from the age of three, I grew up with 300 girls, as I grew up I found myself having crushes on other girls, nothing ever took place, then I left & ventured out into the bigworld and my Lesbian tendencies seemed to diminish. I started having relationships with men that I thoroughly enjoyed & eventually got married. I've never actually had sex with someone of my own sex, the opportunity never arose, if it had I'd have snapped it up. I desperately need to sleep with another woman, but how on earth do you approach people? (hence the reason for my buying the magazine)

contd......

I got very ang
Jeff Vernon's last article but after simmering down, agree that ther
needs to be more 'DISCUSSION'. I felt he wanted to push us into figh
amongst ourselves as well as telling us (paternalism) how we "ought t
define" ourselves. He seems hell bent on "whingeing", picking holes an
so on. I see no point in clarifying what I was intending to convey as
I now believe he doesn't want to consider what I meant however I might
have said it and the exent to which it does or doesn't have validity.
Instead he just writes off what people need to say, telling them what
they should think, do, feel .... All too reminiscent of left wing
groups .... which have yet to discover how to 'unite' whilst being able
to allow/encourage divergent views. Up until writing this, I've had a
positive prejudice towards GYM.. Having attended a couple of their workshops at Gay Fest in Durham (and possibly Sheffield) I was left feeling very inspired. They were so clearly able to look at things afresh and seemed able to encompass a range of 'ways of being' and view points. Their openness was impressive. If Jeff's writings are a true reflection of the way GYM has grown it is sad - depressing even. IT's bad enough having to struggle against the ideas and behaviour which confront us evry day in the heterosexist, patriarchal, profit centred society which hammers us unceasingly. Jeff seems determined to push up barriers to understanding and effective communication. He contradicts himself by going out of his way not to understand whilst claiming that he wants a better understanding and I'm sure he is genuine about this.

I'm convinced that before we can develop "bi-liberation arguments" we have to be able to meet and have some sense of identity. This doesn't seem to be taking place outside London as yet. Also, I'm begining to wonder if the London group is appropriately named as a 'bisexual' group as bisexuals may be no more in number than gays, TVs., TSs etc. - and I'm not wanting to 'force' anyone to decide which ''category' they fall into. The group has a great strength in it's diversity.

Let's hope the conference in December will take us a few steps forward!

WE HAVE RECIEVED a press release from a 'parent special interest group' concerning police action against the Schuyten Family in the USA Their freedom has been violated, the police have searched their home and have claimed to have found pornagraphy, but have been unable to produce any and have brought no charges. Their letter to us concerns the issue of naturism, which they see as being the basis of all freedom, and claim all our opression stems from our thwarting of our naturist urges by society.
One fairly knowledgable source in the Bi group has complained that most naturists are just as sexist, homophobic and ageist as everybody else, so the co-option of bisexuals and others may not be as simple and easy as it may at first seem- are the group making it clear to others that they support bisexuality/homosexuality? While agreeing with a lot of what they say we feel there is an underlying lack of sympathy with bisexuals. I personally see undertones of both sexism and homophobia in their handout, and also little discussion about child expression of sexuality. If you want to know more then write to "Families-Naturally" magazine 2483 Emerson Drive, Corona CA 91720 USA.

BOOKS

MEN IN FROCKS

This book by Kris Kirk and Ed Heath features at least two people who have been along to the Bi Group, and Kris himself has been along to one of our discussions. The book contains interviews with a wide variety of the men, form the earliest wartime drag queens to todays transvestites and androgynes- Boy George being a prime example. This is a very lighthearted work, interesting for its humanity and divergence.

Published by Gay Men's Press at £ 4.95

MORAL POISON!

Anybody at the Men In Frocks party would have noticed the most incredible bunch of wierdoes, swigging wine and warbling on about talcum powder and sailors. 60% male and not a pretty one in sight. What can you expect from these attention seeking journalists, anyway...

If anyone would like to review recent books of interest to women please send us some copy........BM/Bi London WC1N 3XX.

"Good art is injectable, always."

THE LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP LIBRARY.

Anybody who comes along to the meetings at Heaven has access to the LBG library, a collection of books about aspects of a Bi. lifestyle. They may be borrowed, when available, on payment of a deposit which is refundable in full on their safe return. Requests may be made in person or by telephone to Cris (351 5952). They will be brought along to the next meeting. Books cannot be posted.

(Any suggestions for additions to the library will be considered, are there any books which you have found to be of help to you which should be included?)

BISEXUALITY, A STUDY Charlotte Wolff (£2)
SEXUAL ALTERNATIVES FOR MEN John Barrington (£15)
GAYS AND THE LAW Paul Crane (£5)
THE SPADA REPORT James Spada (£2)
SOCIETY AND THE HEALTHY HOMOSEXUAL Dr George Weinberg (£3)
THE JOY OF LESBIAN SEX Sisley & Harris (£9)
THE JOY OF GAY SEX Silverstein & White (£10)
BEYOND THE FRAGMENTS (feminism and the making of socialism) (£3)
LESBIANS, WOMEN & SOCIETY (£4)
LESBIAN NATION J Johnston (£5)

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WOMEN'S NIGHTS

ON 20th NOVEMBER I attended the Bisexual Group which meets at Heaven. It was the first time I have been since one evening several months ago when Nadine led a discussion on "Bisexuality and Feminism" which was well-attended by about equal numbers of men and women. In addition to regular attenders there were several Bisexual feminist women present who had been specialy invited for the discussion. Almost Immediately it became a discussion about feminism itself. Several women including myself argued the importance of having a range of different strategies to struggle for political change in our patriarchal society. More specifically in this cnotext we argued in favour of women-only forums for the ezchange of news and informationin addition to mixed forums. Some men at the meeting were unable to accept this and seemed to feel very threatened. One accused us of being fascist.

My politics leads me to make links between oppression of all kinds. People are oppressed because of their colour, religion, class,'sexual orientation', and so on... and one of the reasons why change is so slow is that people internalise these oppressions. Thence the importance of support groups of all kinds where groups of people can develop confidence and work out strategies for change towards a more humane world. So it is particularily distressing to hear members of so called minority groups expressing attitudes which ridicule the struggles of others.

Surely one of the reasons the London Bisexual Group exists is because it is one of the few places where people who identify as bisexual can meet together as such without having to explain that Aspect of themselves. As a result of this we can gain courage to challenge thoughtless remarks, etc.which deny that aspect of us.

I came along to the group on Tuesday because it was the 3rd Tuesday of the month, designated Women's evening in an attempt to encourage more women to attend. I believe this is a good idea.

More men attend the group on a regular basis than women and the venue of the meetings is not only a fashionable gay male club but one which has a reputation ofr being predatory. This certainally put me off going for some time after I knew of the group's existence and I imagine that this may be true of other women too.

I heard on Tuesday that at the planning meeting of the group on the previous Sunday it had been suggested that the women's nights be stopped. I was disturbed that there seems to have been no discussion of this and my hope is that this piece might generate some.

I do feel that it is important that mixed groups like this exist. But I also feel that if the group is sincere in its attempts to involve more women it has to do more than have a 'women's night' once a month. It must be more receptive to the ideas of bisexual females within and outside the group, rather than attacking them for their views and politics.

CATHERINE MULLAN

*** I was present at the planning meeting where the dropping of women's evenings had been discussed, the person compiling the programme for Jan-March omitted to plan for these evenings and as the whole thing was then planned there seemed little point in carrying on with the idea as it had fallen, due to bad planning, into being just a token gesture on behalf of the group with no real meaning. Catherine came along to the group and persuaded several people that the idea was important- and so the women's evenings will remain. On a more serious level, some members of the group have been rather concerned about the access to decision making allowed to those who attend. Somebody recently answered my question about this with "Everybody is allowed along to planning meetings." But of course some people will be less welcome than others. I personally would like to see more of your views expressed in this magazine which up to now has been run and written by a relatively small and unrepresentative bunch of people. What do you think???

ORE PRO
HE PROOF by Rich
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GP

Dear Bi-Monthly,

I was very dissapointed that you chose to review my book of poems 'The Proof' in such a hostile way. Obviously what I have expressed and the way it was related must have had a powerfull effect to warrant such an extreme reaction. Yes, it is 'a book for men'. Why are you so frightened of this? You talk about 'Male self-centeredness' that is exactly the problem. What the hell are we doing, rushing around shouting about how we support women, waving plackards, writing ideologically sound articles, and desperately trying to prove that our relationships are unexploitive and honest. Thats all very fine, but listen, we're so fucked up from centuries of macho posturing, from the suppression of all that is tender and loving in ourselves, that we have to go back to the very beggining.

Whatever else we have to say, 'I am a Man, what do I feel, whay is my experience.' And we have to go right back, to the begginning of our lives and face it, all of it. All the stupidity, all the violence, and all of the pain. Yes men bleed too. I know i'm not supposed to say it, but it's true. And when we express our experience, through poems, through stories, through group wokk, through sharing, we will seem at times to be indulgent. We will be angry, we will be frustrated, we will be emotional. But if we can express these things, then at last we can let go of the crap and we can change.

'In exploring the alienation of the author it creates an alienation all of its own.' Have you ever tried reading poetry about women's experience? Its usually gone unrecognised until recently because most literary editors think its 'neurotic' and 'self-indulgent.' Sylvia Plaths poems are terribly disturbing, but reading them sparks off a recogniton that part of her experience is to be found in all women even men! Somehow there is a strength there, a reality, something that helps us to see our own pain and alienation and to express it.

'The Proof' may be a successfull attempt to open up personal experiences in this way, it may be a dismal failure. But in the end, what is important, is that someone has genuinely and honestly tried. It is quite unfair to give the book such a hammering, print none of the poems as examples, and then say 'I wonder what do you think.'? What are your readers expected to think? If only you were prepared to print a couple of the poems then we all might get some feedback. Someone might even be moved to write a poem of their own and send it in. I suggest you print 'For the unknown Lover' and one other poem of your choice and see what response you get. If its anything like the reactions i'm getting so far from people elsewhere, then you'll need to think again.

Theres a second volume on the way, it probably answers a lot of your criticisms. But its just that, a second stage, new, happier, more positive, more about my relationships with others (Like some of the ending poems in the book that you fail to mention). I expect therll be a third and a fourth stage and so on. But i'm afraid we all have to begin at the most basic level and progress on.

I'm sorry to be so angry in return but I do feel very, very, frustrated, not just about your reaction to my poems, but the whole vast resistance in the anti-sexist movement to men really expressing anything personal. We must start to open up, my friends, it honestly is the only way foward.

Yours Sincerely Richard Sterne

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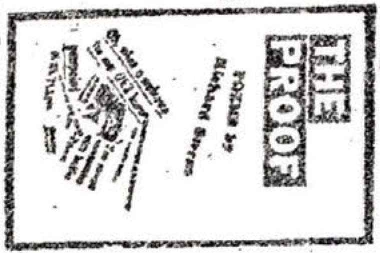
MORE "PROOF"

THE PROOF by Richard Sterne

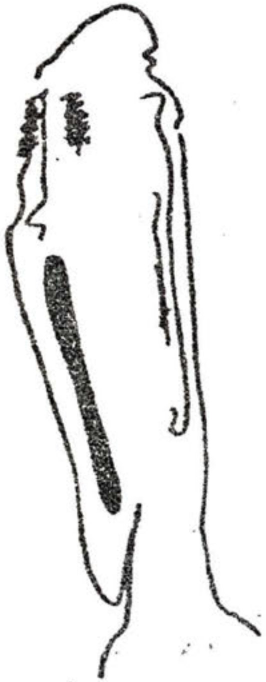
Powerfull experiences
OF
LOVING
VIOLENCE
GROWTH



60p
Cheque/
Postal orders to:
touch publications
9 Redan Street
Ipswich Suffolk

*** Dear Richard, sorry you found our review of your collection dissapointing, yes it was hostile but this was plainly a personal view of the reviewer- in fact an expression of the gut 'feeling' and 'experience' of the reviewer to "The Proof,". Surely the reviewer's reaction is as valid as anybody's, it acknowledges the strength of the poetryin communicating these feelings whilst questioning the usefulness of the portrayed negativeness.

The reason we chose not to print any poems was that we felt the poems to be of little significance to a large part of our audience, having little true 'bisexual' content and having some rather violent (sexual) imagery which several people here found objectionable. We felt it better that somebody should describe their reaction to the book and then we printed your address so that interested people could find out for themselves how the whole of THE PROOF affected them.



FOR THE UNKNOWN LOVER

I dream you fold me
in the luxury of your thighs.
We hug, turn, whisper
and smooth to the sheets
suffused in night:
His tremulous hands,
so dark and deep,
surfing across our skin,
relishing their nervous artistry.
I banish doubt, it curves to the floor
easily, as my unzipped jeans.
I slip palms between your shoulders
flooding you with fingertips
and warm tongue-tasting lips
None of this is difficult,
even though you mirror my sexuality
even though we are brothers
even as guilt wraps itself in a metal fist
knuckling fears to my brass bolted door.
I dream it all so effortlessly behind
tight-lidded eyes:
No light, no solidity,
no magazine-conditioned distortions
of colour or contour.
Only the quiet and the stillness,
only the night, my lover,
only the night.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

'Ask her, it's expected'
I told myself.
But why her exactly?
She didn't look quite like a woman
in a magazine.

Can you imagine the terror
as I popped the question?
Better to walk on hot coals
than fail to get a yes.
But supposing she did?

Fumbling in the cinema,
hand crawling on her leg.
Yes or no?
Sweating grins on her doorstep.
Yes or no?

You know the drill, man,
grab until you get what you want.
In the end she'll love you for it.

Finally, trembling all over my bod
I took the initiative.
I suppose I ought to feel proud.

POEMS BY RICHARD STERNE

GET

So you

How?

F

GET AROUND TOWN -

with Rachel !

So you're bisexual and it's not TUESDAY what do you do?

Monday

Best value in town THE HIPPODROME £4.50 10.30pm onwards
Corner/ Charing Cross rd Liecester Square tube

Tuesday

Heaven of course

Wednesday

Heds (At Crazy Larry's) Behind 533 Kings Road SW 16 £2.00 10.00pm onwards
Nice mixture of lesbian / gay men, interesting art around disco area

Thursday

Early evening The Bell , Kings X tube £1.00 8.30pm -midnight
then either The Asylum Heaven £3.00 guests only 10.00pm -v late
The Palace 1a Camden Rd NW1 £3.00 10.00pm onwards "

Friday

Early evening The Bell , Kings X tube 8.30pm-midnight
Spats 37 Oxford St W1 10.00pm - late

Saturday

The Fallen Angel 65 Grantham St , N1 Angel tube
Yours Or Mine/ El Sombrero 142/144 Kensington High St
£2.00 10.30pm - 2.30am
Very continental

Sunday

Stallions 5 - 6 Falconberg Court, Charing Cross Rd
WC 2 Opposite Centre-point
£1.50 5.00pm onwrads
TEA DANCE

Thre does'nt seem to be much happening South of the river!

USELESS GOSSIP

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ANYBODY seen all those adverts for 'Combat' in Heaven? Well, makes a bit of a change from combat with Heaven, I suppose...

"People keep asking me if I've helped to create a third sex. No, I haven't even made it easier for all the other Georges out there. Bit I do try and create a benign atteptance."
(The boy interviewed in THE FACE Dec '84)

GRANDSLAM

Good Luck to Chris Smith, MP for Islington South & Finsbury (who came to speak to the Bi Group in July (see BM4)) has finally taken the plunge and COME OUT at a public meeting. This historic occasion, the first coming out of an MP voluntarily took place at the Rugby demo. against the council's discriminatory intentions (it has removed it's equal opportunities clause for lesbians and gay men, and the Tory leader of the council Gordon Collet has said that he doesn't want perverts thinking that they'll be accepted im work for the council). Most popular speaker at the very mixed meeting following the demo. was Chris Crawley, Birmingham MEP who displayed her contempt for Cllr Collet's"Victorian Values"... (More, more! This demo would have been an absolute joy if it hadn't been for the Bill who insisted on a ridiculous and unnecessary display of their powers, arresting 18 people after the policemen tried to obstruct the road. ADVICE: all sit down next time...)

The LLGC should be opening early next year, if all goes well. The opening has slowly moved forward in time until some of us were seriously worried that we might never catch up, with the opening getting closer and closer but never close enough...

EXAMINATION: Time allowed, Seven Hours. Awnser at least 1 question.
Q.1 POLICE METHODS.
(a) How many members of HM police forces have importuned you within the last 3 months (lesbians only may answer none)?
(b) How many of those were on duty?
Q.2 PSYCHOLOGY.
(a) What happens if you put two well known homosexuals in a very small room for seven hours, with only one bed? (HINT: ask members of Rugby police ...

British Monomarks

Our postal address (BM/BI London WC1N3XX) is handled by a company called British Monomarks which has fallen into disrepute recently for refusing to handle mail for the magazine 'Minor Problems.'. The people at BM seem to be under the impression that mP is run by PIE (the Paedophile Information Exchange) and therefore consider the matazine to be of unsuitable content. In point of fact mP is not run by PIE, it is simply a magazine providing space for discussion about childhood and intergenerational sexuality, run by a collective with a gay majority. It was discussed at a recent planning meeting that we should have a seperate BM box for this magazine- personally I do not feel that we should give these people any more support. Has anybody got any ideas about alternative methods of recieving post? WE'd be interested in any ideas.

Rumours of plans afoot to advertise BIMONTHLY in NEW SCIENTIST can be discounted- a(nother) typing error caused this to be suggested. This may give you some insight to the working of planning meetings, if you can understand then please write and tell us.

RADIO - MORE MUSIC:

How many times have you turned on the radio and rushed to turn it off? The drivel which pours out of radio 'one' amazes me - especially Steve Wrong in the afternoons. Bubbling personalities which quickly become intrusive and the sexism is atrocious. John Peel doesn't insult us but I think he is on the blink with his choice of music. The record player can get a bit repetitive so what else is there?

If you can't speak French try one of their stations on Long Wave - there is plenty of good music if you can tune in at the right times. Even if they are reinforcing cultural beliefs, values, attitudes and prejudices you won't know!!

Radio Laser 558 MW has 54 mins. of music in every hour. Very few adverts at present and little in the way of news and reminders of the time. The American accents take a bit of getting used to and it fades away after 3 a.m.

'WAR GAMES'

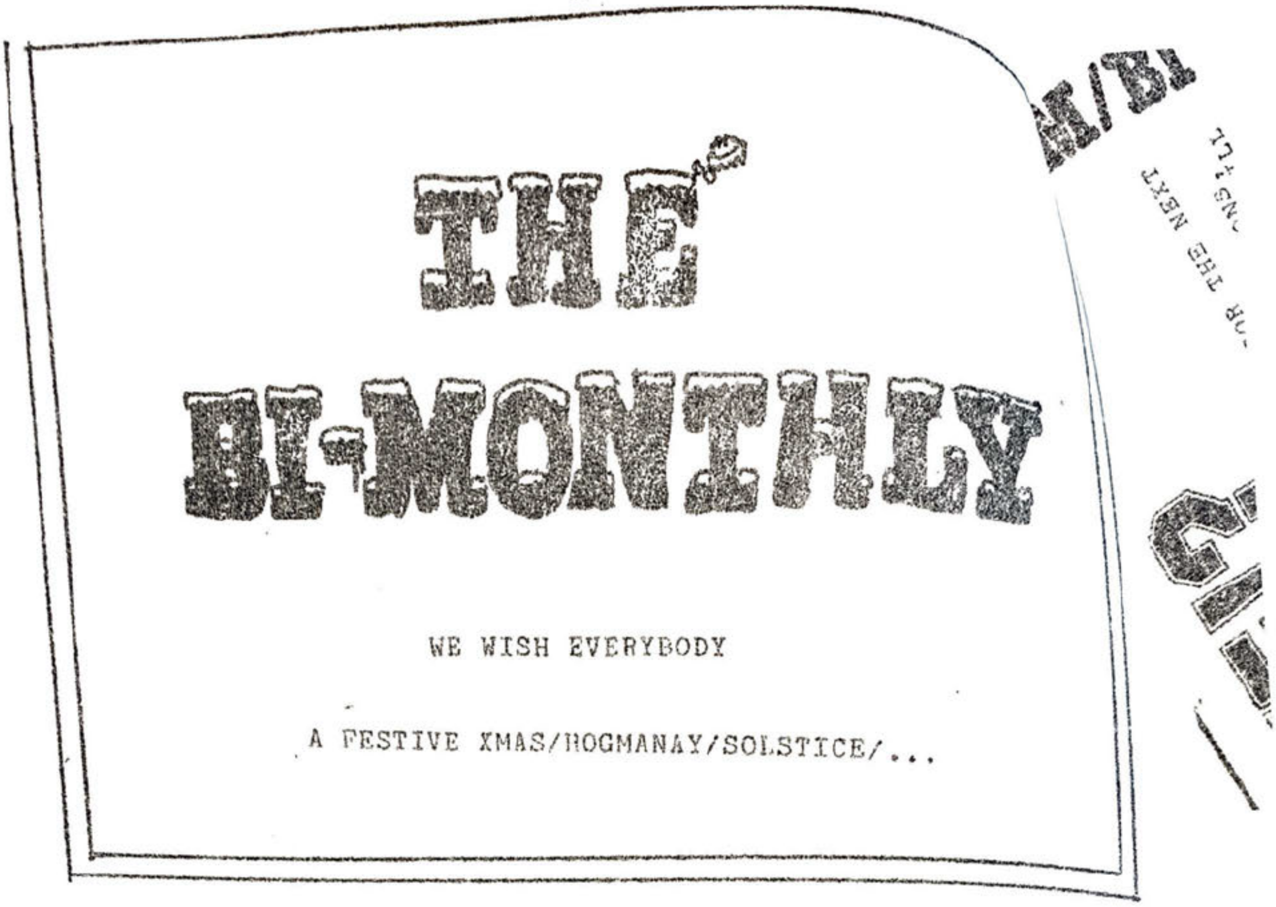
Radio York made a broadcast on 1.9.84 for members of the York War Games group to recruit more members. The person speaking on behalf of the group stated that "Many of us our members of CND and most are pacifists."

Could some members also be opposed to sexism and see no contradictions?

Why discourage children from playing with war toys and then encourage as adults to play 'war games'?? The emphasis was on "strategy" and the use of intellectual skills rather than nasty 'war' and 'killing' etc.. If this isn't symbolic rehearsal of doing in 'the enemy', constructing a mental framework which accepts destruction of others, why call them war games?

Aren't members of these groups pretending to themselves in claiming they have nothing to do with war?

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS ....



THE BI-MONTHLY

WE WISH EVERYBODY

A FESTIVE XMAS/HOGMANAY/SOLSTICE/...

****

THE Bi MONTHLY ORDER FORM 6

I enclose £ ___.___ cash ( ) cheque ( ) PO ( )
payable to the LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP or L.B.G.

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SEND TO BM/BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

* to be published

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FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS.

There are at least 30 words you can find in the square, 9 of which form three slogans. Six items contain kinks or bends so there is something for most majority groups! You will need to read in all directions to find all 30 - you may even find some not intended!!

	I	R	2	S	3	T	4	U	5	V	6	W	7	X	8	Y
A	E	A	C	A	O	P	I	H	S	D	N	U	N	G	N	U
B	Y	A	W	E	H	T	W	C	H	S	N	E	K	O	W	H
C	E	G	N	A	H	C	U	D	D	L	Y	Y	I	L	D	E
D	C	S	Y	V	A	K	I	S	T	Y	C	T	C	K	A	R
E	A	N	H	C	P	T	V	X	H	E	U	T	I	E	F	S
F	N	L	C	A	G	A	Y	C	R	L	P	F	Y	N	U	T
G	T	I	R	Q	N	E	R	E	O	K	N	L	E	P	U	R
H	W	N	A	T	A	A	T	V	C	O	M	F	P	H	E	A
J	A	T	I	L	I	S	E	I	L	N	R	O	P	G	I	I
K	I	I	R	R	B	R	D	U	K	D	R	B	O	U	N	G
L	I	K	T	E	S	G	E	N	N	T	O	S	W	O	I	H
M	S	A	A	H	E	A	F	K	P	O	S	F	E	K	S	T
N	P	C	M	N	L	A	U	X	E	S	I	B	R	R	K	F
O	F	Y	T	D	I	I	D	E	N	T	I	T	Y	Y	T	Y
P	L	L	E	E	F	G	H	O	T	O	M	N	C	I	K	S
Q	E	N	E	R	X	M	T	L	E	S	T	F	I	A	S	B

TO START YOU OFF .... bearings X/Q to 5/L read 'ACTION'!!

If you are lucky i.e. if we are well organized, answers will appear in the next issue.

U̲S̲, well organised??..

WRITE!?

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE Bi MONTHLY?
WE NEED ALL SORTS OF ARTICLES, OPINIONS, POEMS, LETTERS AND STORIES TO HELP US FILL OUR PAGES AND GIVE YOU A MAGAZINE WHICH REFLECTS YOUR INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS.

Write and tell us why you like the BI MONTHLY, or tell us why you don't!
It's as easy as putting pen to paper.

BM/BI London WC1N 3XX.

THE BiMONTHLY

@XMAS AT HEAVEN@
because of Heaven's plans we have arranged to hold our meetings on Dec 20, 27 and Jan 3rd. These are THURSDAYS. Please remember this- don't turn up on one of the Tuesdays.

January

Sunday 6th Saunas for women and men , locations to be announced
Tuesday 8th Discussion on loneliness
Sunday 13th Tea dance at Stallions
Tuesday15th VIDEO Claire Rayner / Massage workshop
Tuesday22nd Bisexuality and stereotypes Dorothy Women especially Welcome
Sunday 27th Tea dance at Stallions
Tuesday29th Discussion and comments about the last issue of the Bi Monthly.
Expressive dance workshop Chantal

February

Tuesday 5th Non-competitive games
Traveller's tales Stories about bisexual experiences abroad
Sunday 10th Tea dance at Stallions
Tuesday12th Discussion on image and sexuality Rachel
Tuesday19th Discussion on mens' part in womens' liberation Women especially welcome
Massage workshop Aurthur
Sunday 24th Tea dance at Stallions
Tuesday 26th Pre-planning meeting
Sunday 31st Planning meeting location to be announced

H1 1985

March

Tuesday 5th Workshop for bisexuals in long term relationships
Friday 8th COPY DATE for Bi Monthly
Tuesday 12th VIDEO
'About Town' Discussion about the Clubs and Discos where bisexuals are welcome
Tuesday 19th Bisexuality and Feminism Women especially welcome
Sunday 24th Tea dance at Stallions
Tuesday 26th Discussion 'Bisexuality before homosexuality' David

There will be a personal group every Tuesday aswell as the discussions shown above

Discussions start at 8.30pm, but it is best to arrive before that time to get a drink at the bar.

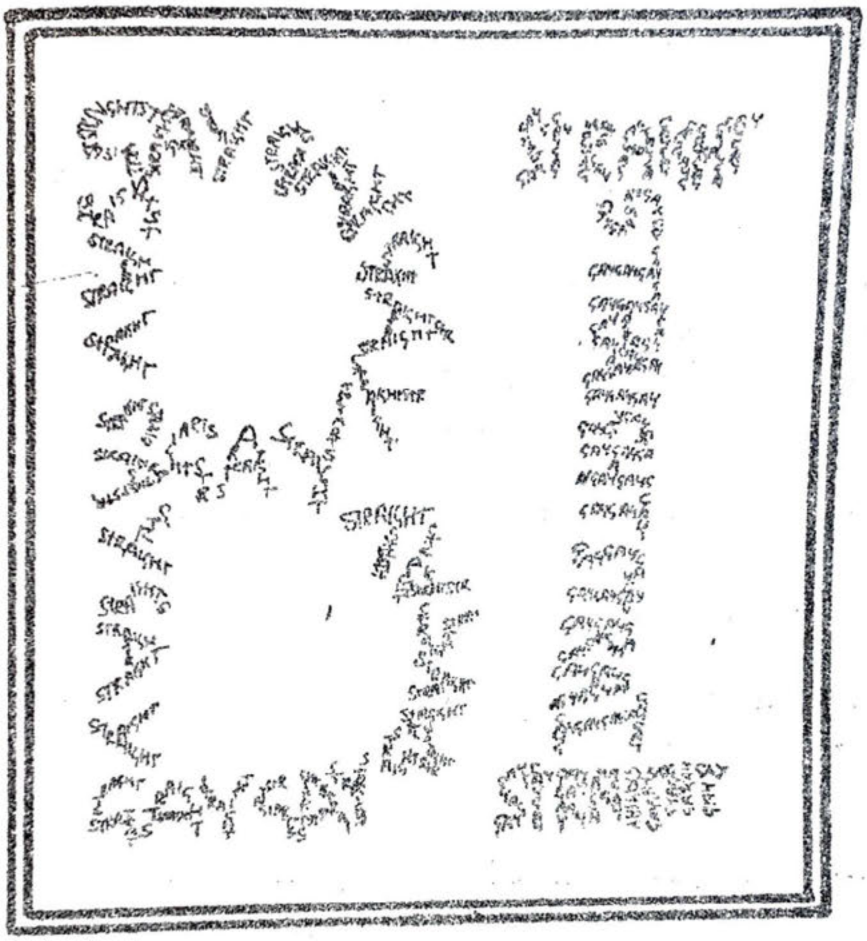
Group finishes at 10.0pm when there will be a business meeting each Tuesday for organisation purposes.

ALL TUESDAY MEETINGS AT HEAVEN DISCO , UNDER THE ARCHES, VILLIERS ST, WC1

LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP
programme Xmas 1984
Jan - Mar 1985

BISEXUAL

CONFERENCE


STRAIGHT
GAY

held at the Factory Community Project
London N16

December 8th/9th 1984.

WORKSHOP DOCUMENTS

1 DEFINING BISEXUALITY

PERSONALLY SPEAKING I do not think that there is any definition of bisexuality which will take in the myriad differentiation which exists between all people, including bisexuals. The only reasonable method open to us is to accept peoples' own definition of themselves. This approach really solves no problems. Bisexuality has its roots firmly placed in the idea of hermaphroditism (the idea of somebody half-female, half-male) and the idea of bisexuality has always attracted both transvestites and transsexuals who surely complicate any discussion about bisexuality until the term becomes unuseable. The term BISEXUAL has been used by different people to different ends throughout history, Freud, Krafft Ebing and Kinsey would have explained the term in radically differing ways.

So this discussion must centre/around how we see the definition of bisexuality. But who are we? People who have come together under the term BISEXUAL. So surely we have our definition amongst the people here who define themselves as such. This only serves to bring us back to the idea of self-definition.

That we should decide who is bisexual and who isn't seems to me to be rather autocratic, but...

SHOULD THE TERM BISEXUAL REFER ONLY TO THOSE HAVING SEX WITH BOTH FEMALES AND MALES?

SHOULD THEY HAVE SEX WITH FEMALES AND MALES IN EQUAL PROPORTIONS?

SHOULD PEOPLE WITH A STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO BOTH SEXES BE INCLUDED WITHIN THIS DEFINITION?

SHOULD TV's&TS's BE INCLUDED (AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMASTANCES SHOULD THEY BE INCLUDED)?

COULD PRE-PUBESCENT CHILDREN BE INCLUDED?

2

BISEXUALITY & POLITICS

The diversity of political preference within LBG is a sign of the social position of bisexuals- who haven't seen fit to consider the 'gay community' politics of equality. Traditional Conservative thought states that one's sexuality is of little importance, and so the socialism of the out gay community is a reflection of the importance which the people in it attach to their sexuality- as an indicator of their social position. This gives a greater feeling of attachment to feminism, anti-racism, etc.

As it has become easire to come out people have begun to come out without taking a direct stand so this 'gay politics' has become diluted, to the extent that it becomes a misrepresentation. A lot of bisexuals feel that they can be bisexual whilst remaining sexist, racist right-wingers. This has been shown at several discussions (see WOMEN'S NIGHTS in this issue for a good example of the sort of situation which can easily arise. Women are discouraged by some men in LBG who make their lack of anti-sexist understanding quite plain. So the problem arises that only a proportion of bisexuals will want to be a part of the gay movement or even define themseves as being gay. Those that do have a problem in that they may wish to educate other lesbians and gay men about their sexual and emotional preferences.

3

IMAGE

One of the most obvious ways of communicating your sexuality has been by what you wear. Gay men and lesbian women have developed complex dress vocabulary which allows messages between individuals and give them means to make easy initial contact. Bisexual people don't seem to have an 'image' and don't have a mechanism for recognition. If Bisexuals are to enjoy the identities similar to the gay scene, then they must develop an 'image'.

An easy way to incorporate an image has been to wear a badge. This method in some way does not suggest a commitment by the individual who wears a badge, since it can be easily be removed. Images which have more impact are those which are not easily removed, such as clothes or make up. In the early days gays wore badges showing the pink triangle or lamdha symbols , today gay men now wear much more permanent images, such as the mustouche or earing on a particular ear.

As bisexual people must by definition lead a double life, it seems reasonable to assume their image must take on this aspect. It must be an image which is 'flexible' yet distinctive in its message. In a lot of ways the badge has all these features, but is it distinctive?

An image which is flexible and distinctive is the androgynous one. You can change back to the 'normal' appearance the 'day after', while at the same time making a strong statement. On a deeper level you challenge to-days dogmatic gay/lesbian sexual politics, since you break down the divisions of male and female. Being androgynous does not necessarily imply being 'outrageous' or 'confrontationist', because you can convey the male-female apperance hybrid in a subtle way. Not too subtle of course!

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4 THE MANIFESTO.

THE TOPIC OF a manifesto for the London Bisexual group has come up several times recently, everyone seems to think it would be a good idea- but everybody disagrees with what it should say.

Somebody at a planning meeting recently where it was discussed voiced the opinion that it should be as wide as possible and not tie us down- as somebody put it it should say nothing.

A small group has been set up and will report to the conference, hopefully with some initial ideas about what the manifesto should say- and how we will re-draft it and refine it to an acceptible document. It is hoped that the document will be published in the BIMONTHLY which will promote discussion.

Questions to consider-
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES . advice, campaigning, access, sexism, racism, ablism, ageism, long term aims?
MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY should there be any 'rules' about joining the group or official membership?
HIERARCHY how is the group run?
THE GAY/STRAIGHT COMMUNITIES how do we relate to these?
THE NEWSLETTER how does this fit in with our plans?
SHOULD WE ADOPT AN OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION? this might help us bring some structure to the running of the group and formalise some of our objectives.

5 EDUCATION

FOR THIS DISCUSSION our main premise should be that young people need help in developing their knowledge of sexuality which should have the aims of helping them develop their own sexuality and of giving them the information about sexuality which would encourage them to see the sexuality of others in a positive light.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE PROVIDED TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION.

1 All pupils, teachers and others within the education environment (parents, governors, etc) should have a right to freedom from ahy discrimination because of their sexuality, and furthermore should have positive encouratement to talk about their sexuality and sexual experience.

2 The curriculum should reflect the differences in sexuality to be found in society of human sexual experience and should encourage discussion about the importance of sexuality as a force in society and as a force in personal life.

3 School staff should be given training to help them understand the feelings of bisexual, lesbian and gay-male pupils- simply to help them cope with any attitiudes and behaviour of other pupils. All too often the alienation felt by these pupils is ignored.

4 Sex education in schools should include clear information about homosexuality and non-heterosexual women and men, be they bisexual or exclusively gay. Access to information about sexuality should be simple and straightforward.

5 The paramount importance in these matters should be the right of children in education to develop a positive sexual self-identity.

Heaven

Under the Arches,
Villiers Street,
Charing Cross,
London WC2
Telephone: 01-839 3852

Tues; mixed
Wed; London Blues
Thurs; Asylum
mixed gay
Fri; men only
Sat; Hi Energy